

To the Members of the California State Assembly:

I am returning Assembly Bill 2192 without my signature.

I strongly support efforts to help people recover from drug addiction and recently invested \$670 million in statewide drug treatment programs, an increase of \$53 million over the previous year. However, I cannot support this bill as it would provide cash assistance to drug offenders without adequate public safety protections.

California already provides resources to help meet the needs of children whose parents are ineligible for CalWORKS services because of their drug-related felony. I am disappointed the Legislature failed to incorporate all of the reasonable public safety provisions I recommended when vetoing similar legislation (AB 855) last year. By not including a strong drug testing requirement or the use of voucher payments in lieu of cash for all drug offenders, this measure does not provide adequate assurances that these individuals are abstaining from drug use.

For these reasons, I am returning AB 2192 without my signature.

Sincerely,

Arnold Schwarzenegger